



## **CWSF FOREST PRODUCTS COMMITTEE 2023 Report and 2024 Work Plan**

### **LEADERSHIP OVERVIEW**

#### **COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP**

The Forest Product Committee leadership team for 2023 included:

- Bergen Eskildsen (UT), Chair
- Archie Gray (ID), Vice Chair
- Dave Bruton (KS), Secretary (To be confirmed)
- Tim Reader (CO), Past Chair
- Gerry Gray (UT), State Forester Advisor
- Laura Wagner (CWSF), CWSF/WFLC Staff Liaison

The Forest Products Committee Leadership team for 2024 includes:

- Archie Gray (ID), Chair
- Dave Bruton (KS), Vice Chair
- Kim Slazak (NE), Secretary
- Bergen Eskildsen (UT), Past Chair
- Gerry Gray (UT), State Forester Advisor
- Neil Simpson (CWSF), CWSF/WFLC Staff Liaison

#### **MISSION STATEMENT AND PURPOSE**

The Forest Products Committee (FPC) was established to address forest products and biomass utilization opportunities and challenges of regional significance. In particular, the committee supports sustainable forest management and other forest-based benefits by working with the Council of Western State Foresters (CWSF) leadership to maintain and enhance markets for traditional and non-traditional forest products. The establishment of this committee offers the opportunity for the sharing of information across the Western U.S. on utilization issues, representation at the regional and national meetings, and the creation of recommendations for the CWSF's consideration and action.

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### **2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM 2023**

- **Annual Meeting, March 14-16, 2023, in Salt Lake City, UT.** >90% member attendance (not including USDA Forest Service partners and external presenters). Featured presentations on biochar, biofuels, urban forestry/urban wood utilization, firewood banks/tribal fuelwood initiative, and discussions on policy/federal funding opportunities, and non-traditional financing methods to retain and recruit industry. A field tour was also conducted to Euclid Timber Frames.

*[CWSF Goal 1, Strategies 1, 2, 3. Meaningful engagement and learning. Network administration and function.]*

- **4<sup>th</sup> Annual Emerging Market Report on Wood Wool Cement and Wood Fiber Insulation** - Achieved successful responses after revising the original project and request for proposal documents. The Beck Group completed the report in February 2023, and it was finalized in April 2023 after review by the committee. The report has been shared within committee members' networks.

*[CWSF Goal 2, Strategy 2. Share external facing communication products representing member priorities]*

- **Success for Member-Supported Partnerships** - State member-supported initiatives in mass timber and biochar continued to receive funding awards and national recognition. A video was published showing a recap of the Oregon Mass Timber Coalition (OMTCT) Forest to Frame Tour conducted in May 2023.

*[CWSF Goal 2, Strategies 2. Develop, and share external facing communications products representing member priorities.]*

- **Peer-to-Peer Learning Opportunities** - The OMTCT Forest to Frame Tour was conducted in May 2023 to share strategy and partnerships to build a modular mass timber housing industry in Oregon, understand supply, manufacturing, design, testing, workforce, and code requirements, and to gain insight into linkages and challenges across the mass timber supply chain.

*[CWSF Goal 1, Strategies 1, 2, 3. Meaningful engagement and learning. Strong professional community, peer-to-peer learning. CWSF Goal 3, Strategy 2. Provide networking, dialogue, knowledge sharing, and learning among members.]*

- **Continuing Education and Professional Development** - The CEO of Blue Forest Conservation presented to the committee to discuss their Asset Management Program, which seeks to stimulate forest products and industry investment in California - and is expanding to other states. Members were given time for Q&A following the presentation.

*[CWSF Goal 1. Strategies 1. Meaningful engagement and learning among membership.]*

- **Carbon Accounting Framework Survey** - Conducted a member survey on carbon forest carbon planning and climate mitigation efforts. Three member states responded with existing and/or forest carbon plans/planning in place or in progress: California, Colorado, and Kansas.

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION BY STATE FORESTERS

- Recommendation for State Foresters to approve the FPC 2024 Work Plan.

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## 2024 WORK PLAN

### MEETING(S) AND CALLS PLANNED FOR 2024

- Annual Meeting, in-person for April 9 - 11, 2024, in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. >90% expected in-person attendance. Program content will consist of committee business, Forest Service partner updates, urban wood utilization, Community Wildfire Defense Grants products other than lumber utilization, and engagement (tours) with area wood products manufacturing facilities.
- Committee hosted professional development opportunities (travel support by FPL cooperative agreement)
  1. Biochar Production and Marketing - Format and details TBD. Inclusive of member-hosted site visits to biochar processing facilities, participate/assist/support in facilitating the recent "Scaling Up and Moving the Needle" initiative by USDA Rocky Mountain Research Station.
  2. Coordinate and facilitate industry/state staff training for chainsaw training, forwarding & skidding training.
- Quarterly membership and leadership team meetings

*CWSF Goal 1, Strategies 1, 2, 3. Meaningful engagement and learning. Network administration and function*

*CWSF Goal 3 Strengthen western forestry priorities and collaborative partnerships*

## **METHOD OF COMMUNICATION**

- In-person annual meetings, quarterly committee membership meetings hosted virtually, and in-person, member hosted, professional development opportunities.
- Regular member communications and member-to-member technical assistance delivery via email.
- Annual member contributions to CWSF monthly newsletter.

## **KEY ACTIVITIES, DELIVERABLES, AND OUTCOMES PLANNED FOR 2024**

- Provide grant training to industry members to enable successful wood innovation grant applications which will expand wood utilization markets in the West - Utilizing Wood Innovations grant funding.
- Game of Logging training or similar chainsaw/logging training session. Offer two training sessions to industry and/or state and U.S.-Affiliated Pacific Islands in 2024 - utilizing wood innovations grant funding.
- Encourage and recruit Pacific Island participation in the FPC by changing meeting time and sending specific invitations.
- Work with the CWSF Director of Communications to develop marketing plan and disseminate Emerging Market Reports.
- Peer-to-peer learning opportunities.
- Committee to facilitate the identification of biomass, wood utilization, and carbon markets funding opportunities resulting from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, Inflation Reduction Act, Shared Stewardship, and USDA 10-Year Wildfire Strategy.
- Consider, and where appropriate, include carbon markets in forest products conversations.
- Explore topics and audience for 5<sup>th</sup> emergent market report.
- Expand the 'Wood for Life' initiative.
- Contribute FPC activities to the CWSF Newsletter.
- Presentations of data/reports on capacity building in the forest products sector (e.g., University of Montana Bureau of Business and Economic Research).